Tulare Co
150

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW FIELD BEANS?

Your cost of growing beans will vary widely with your size of operation, the equipment available and your yield. The sample figures below and the blank spaces for your costs are to help you estimate your cost. This sample is based on a moderate sized crop farm for which special equipment would be hired. Yield per acre is assumed at 1600 pounds of recleaned beans. Man labor is figured at 85¢ an hour, a heavy 4 plow tractor at $2.50 per hour, and a light wheel tractor at $1.25 an hour. Use your own rates in estimating your costs. Costs for taxes and overhead on land are based on 60% to beans, 40% to winter crop.

Operation or item with hours or quantity, and prices per acre	Sample Costs Per Acre	Sample Costs Per Cwt.	My Costs Per Acre	My Costs Per Cwt.
Land preparation, discing, etc. 2.5 hours for man and heavy tractor	8.38			
Planting - 2 men and light tractor ½ hour plus 35¢ an hour for rent of bean planter	1.83			
Cultivation - 3 times - man and tractor 1½ hr.	3.15			
Irrigation: 1 pre-irrig. and 3 crop irrig. man labor hours--6	5.10			
Hand hoeing and weeding, 4 hrs. per acre	3.40			
Cutting and windrowing, 1 man light tractor and bean cutter and rake 1 hr. incl. 40¢ rent	2.50			
Combine harvester contract, 75¢ sack	12.00	.75		
Pulling combine ½ hr., man and large tractor	1.67	.10		
Hauling, contract, field to warehouse	2.88	.18		
Recleaning, fumigating and storage	4.80	.30		
Total labor costs	45.71	2.85		
Irrigation water 2 acre ft. @ $2.50	5.00			
Seed 20 lb. @ 20¢	4.00			
Sacks 16 @ 28¢	4.48			
Total material cost	13.48	.85		
General expense, phone, car, etc., 5% of above	2.95			
County taxes $80 value $6 rate, $4.80 x 60%	2.88			
Repairs, comp. ins. and miscel. other cash costs	3.00			
Total cash overhead	8.83	.55		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	68.02	4.25		
Depreciation - based on about a 100 acre farm				
Irrigation system $80 cost, 20 yr., 60% to beans	2.40			
Tillage equipment and miscel. $12 over 10 years	1.20			
Total depreciation	3.60	.22		
Interest on investment at 5%				
Irrig. system and tillage equip. and mixcel. chargeable to beans at ½ cost $30 value	1.50			
Land $400 value at 5%-$20, 60% to beans	12.00			
Total interest on investment	13.50	.184		
TOTAL ALL COSTS OF PRODUCTION	85.12	5.31		

The above table shows a sample cost of $5.31 per cwt. If beans were grown as a single crop instead of after a winter crop costs would be higher for taxes, depreciation on your facilities, and interest on your investment. No fertilizer was provided above although some might be needed to maintain good yields. No credit was allowed for straw. It could be left as fertilizer or fed to livestock. Estimating your own costs and the probable price should help you decide whether you want to grow beans.

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GROWING FIELD BEANS IN TULARE COUNTY

Field beans have a definite place in crop rotations on diversified farms in Tulare County. The crop is considered beneficial to the soil because it adds nitrogen, and weeds may be kept under control by cultivation. Straw left after harvesting is valuable for livestock feed or may be plowed under for soil improvement. Beans are relatively free of pests and diseases and do not have a high labor requirement.

Soil and Water Requirements - Blackeyes, the main bean variety in Tulare County, do best on sandy loam soils. Vine growth is abundant on heavy clay, adobe, and red hardpan soils but the crop and quality is usually poorer. Heavier soils are better adapted to baby limas, pintos and red kidneys. Pinks have been observed to do better on sandy loam soils than on heavier grouns. Alkali soils are not recommended for bean growing.

Beans must be irrigated in this area. Pre-irrigation is advisable. On sandy loam soils three crop irrigations are usually necessary; on heavy soils two irrigations may suffice. The soil should be amply supplied with moisture when the beans enter the blooming period. Two acre feet of water should handle requirements for the crop.

Varieties - In addition to being influenced by the type of soil, the selection of the variety of beans to plant should be considered in relation to price, yield, and climatic adaptation. Price received for blackeyes is generally lower than for other varieties. However, this may be offset by usually higher yields of blackeyes. This variety is the most resistant to high temperatures and low humidity, such as occur in the summer in this area, and frequently have been observed to set well when blossoms of other bean varieties shed off.

Planting dates and seeding rates - Although beans are generally not planted until May or early June, there are indications that they may be planted earlier. Bean plants are injured by frost, which means they should usually not be planted before April 10. Summer planting after about June 15 is limited by likelihood of fall rains, which swell and dis-color beans which have not yet been harvested.

Seeding rates vary according to growers' preferences and quality of the seedbed. 20 lbs. per acre is sufficient if a good seedbed is prepared.

Outlook and Government Programs - The Production and Marketing Administration has announced that acreage allotments will be in effect on beans in 1950, with price supports available for growers planting within their allotments. Growers are urged to contact their county P.M.A. Office prior to planting to obtain the latest information.